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## ABE/LINK MALAWI TPDS MONTHLY BULLETIN

**MAY 2010**

### Highlights of Collaboration with MoEST and MIE on Continuous Professional Development

During May 2010 a series of meetings critical to TPDS were held with MoEST Directors, including participation by DTED, EMAS, and MIE, as well as USAID and TPDS staff. The purpose was to jointly review issues pertaining to CPD and to:

1. advance dialogue surrounding CPD and reach common understanding of it and a shared definition with MoEST;
2. reach agreement on how to operationalize CPD and identify the existing components and elements of CPD; and
3. clarify the MoEST/MIE and TPDS roles, central to future program implementation.

#### May 20 Meeting at TPDS Offices with DTED, EMAS, MIE and USAID

A critical meeting occurred on May 20 at TPDS offices and included discussion of the following:

- What is the currently approved MoEST CPD Model?
  - How can TPDS define it?
  - What are the existing CPD model components, elements or activities?
  - What does the Ministry expect from CPD or CPD activities?
- What does TPDS propose vis-à-vis the CPD model?
  - TPDS feedback, concerns or issues
  - What is the same or different from the proposed model?
  - What should TPDS use to move forward?
- What are the roles, responsibilities and/or key activities of the various CPD stakeholders?
  - How can TPDS ensure they are taking place?
- What kind of leadership, advisory or other structures/groupings need to be put in place for TPDS-supported activities?
  - What current MoEST/SWAp structures/groupings can TPDS build on?
  - Should there be a CPD Task Force under the Teacher Education Working Group

#### Key Discussion Points

- MoEST confirmed that DTED is to be the lead directorate on CPD and that DTED will be supported by other relevant departments, such as EMAS and MIE, as required.
- Ministry delegates agreed to have CPD conducted by TPDS as an integral part of MoEST activities and structures. This is and remains an underlying principle of the strategy.
- Agreement was reached to clarify the uncertainty on directorate roles and responsibilities.
- Agreement was reached to hold a meeting on May 27 on how to operationalize CPD and to continue discussions to define specifics of a common understanding of the CPD approach.
- Discussion focused on the earlier MoEST conceptualization of CPD and provided an opportunity for MoEST staff to review past assumptions, planning, and future expectations.
- It was also agreed that CPD materials will be shared prior to the next meeting for TPDS review.
- Attendees agreed that the existing CPD orientation manual will be jointly reviewed and modified as needed.

**Implementation Discussion Points**

- It was agreed that CPD implementation will not be piloted but implemented country-wide. TPDS will, however, ground-truth the materials amongst a selected subset of schools in order to confirm their validity prior to reproduction and printing. Such a step is critical to validate the utility of the materials and is in keeping with the TPDS contract.
- TPDS was informed that from the previous conceptualization of CPD, MoEST had no plans to produce a set of common materials for CPD, as previously assumed.
- MoEST stated that it was preferred that resources be provided to teachers to come up with their own solutions to local problems, and to produce their own CPD materials. (This raises questions of the scope, size and extent of what TPDS is expected to provide).
- DTED was charged with the responsibility to call for the next meeting on May 27, to take place at any convenient location in Lilongwe.

**Issues for Continued Discussion**

- TPDS training is to occur at the cluster level, as has been planned, proposed, and funded.
- Implementation of the training, observations, mentoring, and evaluation will be at the school-level.
- Tikwere will be providing CDs of programs for use at schools by teachers. The programs will build on/motivate teachers to use the training they have received and will be coordinated with TPDS efforts.
- An operational plan was developed, reviewed by Tier 1, revised, redistributed, and is being discussed by relevant directors from MoEST.